

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04804 01 OF 02 262130Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 JUSE-00 HA-05
TRSE-00 AID-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
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O R 262031Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9650
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTIAGO 4804

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV CI
SUBJECT: RETURN OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU -- MEDIA COVERAGE AND COMMENT

REF: SANTIAGO 4771

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR LANDAU'S RETURN FOR CONSULTATIONS CONTINUED TO BE A MAJOR MEDIA STORY JUNE 24/26. THE FIRST EDITORIAL COMMENT RELATES HIS RETURN TO THE OVERALL CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILE, DESCRIBING HIS RETURN AS UNFORTUNATE POLITICIZATION OF A LEGAL MATTER, AND NOTES THAT CHILE'S REQUESTS FOR USG COOPERATION HAVE NOT BEEN MET FULLY. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH RUNNING A POOR SECOND TO THE WORLD CUP, THE RETURN OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU TO WASHINGTON, AND RELATED STORIES, CONTINUED TO GET WIDE MEDIA PLAY OVER THE WEEKEND AND IN THIS MORNING'S PRESS. THE MEDIA HERE HAS REPORTED THE APPARENT DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND JUSTICE OVER THE INCLUSION OF THE THIRD, HUMAN RIGHTS, SENTENCE IN THE JUNE 23 STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN. AS REPORTED HERE, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WAS UNHAPPY AT WHAT MIGHT BE VIEWED AS AN EFFORT TO EXTEND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LETELIER CASE BEYOND
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 04804 01 OF 02 262130Z

THE PURELY LEGAL AND JURIDICAL.

3. "EL MERCURIO" OF JUNE 25 HAS A STORY QUOTING UNSPECIFIED "SOURCES" SAYING THAT THE RECALL OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU IS RELATED TO TWO SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR COOPERATION ON WHICH THE GOC HAS NOT YET BEEN FORTHCOMING. THE FIRST REQUEST, ACCORDING TO "EL MERCURIO" RELATES TO THE MANNER IN WHICH TWO CHILEANS OBTAINED PASSPORTS

IN PQRAGUAY WHICH, "EL MERCURIO" OBSERVES, IS A MATTER OUTSIDE THE COMPETENCE OF CHILEAN AUTHORITY. THE SECOND REQUEST, IS THAT THE GOC AGREE TO SEND TO THE UNITED STATES A MIDDLE-LEVEL INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO TESTIFY ON THE ORGANIZATION OF DINA AND THE POSITION OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY WITHIN IT. ACCORDING TO "EL MERCURIO" THIS REQUEST WAS DENIED BECAUSE THE GOC CANNOT PROPERLY SEND AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL ABROAD TO PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION TO A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AND, FURTHERMORE, BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN NO EXTRADITION REQUEST FOR THE OFFICIAL. THIS SAME STORY WITH VAGUE ATTRIBUTION TO "GOVERNMENT SOURCES" WAS CARRIED ON GOVERNMENT CHANNEL 7'S SUNDAY NIGHT NEWSCAST "60 MINUTES" WHICH HAS A WIDE AUDIENCE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

4. "EL MERCURIO" HAS NOT YET COME FORTH WITH AN EDITORIAL ON THE LANDAU RETURN. THERE IS REFERENCE TO THE RETURN, HOWEVER, IN EDITOR ARTURO FONTAINE'S "LA SEMANA POLITICA" OF JUNE 25. THE OVERALL THEME OF HIS COLUMN THIS WEEK IS THAT PRECISELY BECAUSE THE PRESENT REGIME HAS MADE SUCH PROGRESS OVER THE PAST FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEARS THE ENEMIES OF CHILE, WITHIN AND WITHOUT, ARE MAKING RENEWED EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT ITS COLLAPSE. WITHOUT PUTTING THE UNITED STATES CLEARLY IN THE CAMP OF CHILE'S ENEMIES, FONTAINE REPEATS "EL MERCURIO'S" PREVIOUS CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH IN THE OAS AS INTERVENTIONIST (SANTIAGO 4749) AND LAMENTS THAT THE RETURN OF AMBASSADOR LANDAU BECAUSE OF THE LETELIER CASE INDICATES THAT THE UNITED STATES PREFERS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 04804 01 OF 02 262130Z

HANDLE POLITICALLY A MATTER THAT PREVIOUSLY WAS TREATED STRICTLY ON A POLICE AND JUDICIAL PLANE.

5. THE "LA TERCERA" EDITORIAL OF THE SAME DAY DENOUNCES AMBASSADOR LANDAU'S RETURN AS A "NEW EFFORT TO PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE." IT NOTES THAT THIS WILL DELIGHT THE ENEMIES OF THE PINOCHET REGIME AND AROUSE NEW HOPES FOR HIS OVERTHROW, AND SAYS THAT IT WILL BE FORGOTTEN BY MANY THAT CHILE COMPAONED THREE WEEKS AGO ABOUT THE LACK OF COOPERATION OF US AUTHORITIES WITH THE INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED HERE BY GENERAL OROZCO. THE DIFFERENCE OF COURSE, "LA TERCERA" OBSERVES, IS THAT CHILE DID NOT RECALL ITS AMBASSADOR. "LA TERCERA" CONCLUDES THAT THE IMPORTANT THING NOW, ASSUMING OF COURSE THAT THERE IS

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04804 02 OF 02 262139Z
ACTION ARA-14

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 SANTIAGO 4804

GOOD WILL ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES, IS THAT THOSE
RESPECTS IN WHICH THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN ADEQUATE CHILEAN COOPERATION
BE CLEARLY DEFINED. CHILE FOR ITS PART, BY MEANS OF OFFICIAL
STATEMENTS, MUST MAKE ITS OWN PEOPLE AWARE OF THE LACK OF
AMERICAN COOPERATION. ONLY IN THIS WAY WILL THE CHILEAN PEOPLE
BE AWARE OF THE UNJUSTNESS OF THE USG'S POSITION.

6. GOC-OWNED "EL CRONISTA" HAS A SURPRISINGLY RESTRAINED EDITORIAL
JUNE 26. IT MAKES THREE POINTS IN THE INTEREST OF CLARIFYING FOR
ITS READERS THE PRESENT SITUATION. FIRST, THAT AMBASSADOR LANDAU
WAS CALLED BACK TO WASHINGTON SOLELY TO DISCUSS THE LETELIER CASE
(OTHER TOPICS OF DISCUSSION, E.G. HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENERAL, ARE
INCIDENTAL AND NOT THE REASON FOR HIS RETURN). SECOND, IT MUST
NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT MANY OF THE MEDIA ORGANS IN THE UNITED
STATES SEEK TO EXPLOIT THE LETELIER CASE IN ORDER TO CREATE A
POLITICAL CRISIS IN CHILE. AND, THIRD, THAT THE PROBLEM WHICH
REQUIRES AMBASSADOR LANDAU'S PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON DEPENDS
TO SOME EXTENT ON "INTERPRETATIONS" OF WHAT IS MEANT BY COOPERATION
AND TO WHAT EXTENT COOPERATION CAN BE EXTENDED TO A FOREIGN
COUNTRY. "EL CRONISTA" CONCLUDES THAT THE PRESENT PROBLEM IS
TRANSITORY AND THAT IT CAN BE OVERCOME BY THE GOOD WILL OF CHILEAN
AND US AUTHORITIES.

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 04804 02 OF 02 262139Z

6. IN A COMPANION PIECE, "EL CRONISTA" EDITOR, SILVIA PINTO,
ADDRESSES SOME OF THE SAME PROBLEMS. SHE DESCRIBES THE MISSION OF
AMBASSADOR LANDAU TO WASHINGTON AS EXTREMELY DELICATE. SHE
PRAISES HIM AS "A MAN WHO REFUSES TO CHARACTERIZE CHILE IN THE
STYLE OF OUR DETRACTORS. LANDAU IS A DIPLOMAT WITH MANY YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE IN LATIN AMERICAN, INTELLIGENT, AND WITHOUT POLITICAL
ILL WILL TOWARDS US. PERHAPS THAT IS NOT TO THE LIKING OF THOSE

WHO ARE ENGAGED IN TRYING TO CHANGE OUR DESTINY IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THEIR BELIEFS AND INTERESTS. LANDAU KNOWS THIS AND DOES NOT
HIDE THE FACT THAT WORSE DAYS CAN COME."
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